

STONES FADE IN AMATEUR CUP

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1, WEALDSTONE 0

WEALDSTONE'S LAST hope of honours in what may well be their farewell season as amateurs, faded just five minutes away from a replay of Saturday's Amateur Cup round one tie at Leakes Park.

Taking fearful punishment from the first whistle, the men from Lower Mead defended desperately as Wycombe's free moving attack sensed that time was running out.

Despite an endless stream of crosses which cut through the visitors' area time and again, Wanderers looked destined for another visit—it would have been their third of the season—to Lower Mead.

Instead, however, England centre back Ted Powell pushed across the pass and Larry Pritchard—another international—dashed in to volley the ball into goal on 85 minutes and put some justice on the result.

Justice? Certainly Wanderers outplayed a Wealdstone squad intent on a defensive play from the very start. Just as certainly, even a replay would have shattered the efforts Wealdstone made to break out from their own half.

But could any team waste the mountain of chances Wycombe had and yet still deserve to win?

Whatever the Hies tried, failed. While their defence chased Bremer forward two of the strikers, led by Horseman and Hutchinson (an early substitute for the

injured Baker) and prompted by Bremer and Pritchard, relentlessly set about their job.

The near misses, hard luck stories and instances of sheer poor finishing are countless. But in the 61st minute it looked momentarily like a Wycombe breakthrough when Rob Williams pushed a Horseman shot off target and onto the post, while Swain neatly parried away Horseman's return volley.

Only briefly, soon after half-time, did Wealdstone show any forceful tenden-

cies. Substitute Johnstone, brought on somewhat late in the day, hardly got a look in, for as time ticked away so Wanderers completely dominated the park once more.

Their goal, overdue as it was, did nothing to open up the floodgates however. In the few minutes remaining Wycombe's miserly luck continued as Pritchard headed onto the post, Searle's sweep shot was covered by Swain and several other openings passed them by before the final whistle.

Wycombe: Maskell; Fuschillo, Blunt; Powell, Delaney, Faulkner; Bremer (Sub.: Hutchinson), Searle, Pritchard, Horseman.

Wealdstone: Swain; Dafforn, Hard; Williams, Olson, Replay (Sub.: Johnstone); Townsend, Mahon, Ritchie, Pentecost, Yerby.

HANWELL TOWN 0, YEADING 5

HANWELL TOWN suffered their heaviest defeat for over two seasons in this Middlesex Intermediate Cup fourth round match.

Yeading took the lead with a disputed goal. After an attack had been cleared the ball was chipped back to the Yeading striker standing in an apparently off-side position. He shot home and the referee allowed the goal.

Hanwell fought back but fell further behind before the interval.

In the second half hopes of a revival were dashed early on when a poor back pass was seized on and converted. Two more goals followed and Yeading could have had more as Hanwell, not unnaturally, became somewhat dispirited.

Town return to their League programme next week when they meet bottom of the table Victoria.